



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Airpower Summary: Feb 26 – Mar 3, 2012** **Minnesota Maintenance: Reservists power Herc check**

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** -- The C-130 Hercules, a workhorse for the Air Force since the 1950s, has changed over the years, with improved systems and upgrades. However, one thing that hasn't changed is the dedication of the Airmen who keep the aircraft functional.

"As a crew chief, that plane is your responsibility," said Tech. Sgt. Kyle Klass, who has worked on the C-130 for 12 years. "This plane can handle almost anything you can throw at it, but without proper maintenance, they can't sustain operations."

A key process to keeping the C-130 operational is the home station check, which is an in-depth inspection that examines all the critical components of the aircraft--electronics, hydraulics, engines, auxiliary power units, as well as many other items. Twenty-two Reserve Airmen from the 746th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit here performed this preventative maintenance on one of the unit's C-130H3 models, and are always there before the plane takes off and well-after that same aircraft returns.

"There are little things that are very simple to inspect, and there are things like the auxiliary power units that require quite a bit of time," said Klass, who is a native of Cornell, Wisc.

The auxiliary power check supplies the aircraft with both electronic and pneumatic pressure, which the maintainers can physically check in the aircraft's engines.

"If the lines that supply that engine with pneumatic pressure are leaking, it will be obvious because there is a large volume of air coming from the clamps," he explained. "The Airmen can feel the air and immediately determine if the item needs repair."

C-130s are versatile aircraft, and are able to transport personnel and many kinds of cargo. They can also be used for search and rescue operations, airdrop supply missions, and aero-medical evacuations. It can land on almost any kind of runway, even if the runway is considered substandard.

For the full article or to download high resolution photographs, visit <http://www.afcent.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123291817>



SOUTHWEST ASIA – Maintainers from the 746th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit secure a panel on a C-130H3 Hercules engine during a home station check here Feb. 28, 2012. Home station checks are required every 450 days to ensure the aircraft is in good shape to continue flight. Discrepancies, if found, must be addressed before returning the aircraft to an operational status. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Nathanael Callon)

The Combined Forces Air Component Commander's airpower data for the week of Feb 26 – Mar 3, 2012:

## Airpower Summary for the week of Feb 26 - Mar 3, 2012

Close Air Support	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	TOTAL
Operation Enduring Freedom	61	80	82	74	74	63	63	497
Weapons Releases								
OEF	0	0	2	6	5	6	1	20
ISR								
OEF	51	112	102	103	101	95	56	620
Combined Data								
Airlift Sorties	86	97	121	130	121	126	103	784
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	466	756	603	689	810	883	804	5,011
Airlift Passengers	2,269	1,974	2,575	2,675	2,624	2,785	2,647	17,549
Tanker Sorties	38	39	37	38	44	35	37	268
Fuel Offloaded (Thousands of Pounds)	2,567	2,852	2,976	2,514	2,706	2,593	2,405	18,613
Aircraft Refueled	150	196	185	155	187	136	145	1,154
PR/Medevac Sorties	14	10	20	18	18	13	14	107
Saves	4	1	3	2	2	6	9	27
Assist	6	2	5	3	3	4	2	25

(To see the complete CFACC Airpower Statistics, current as of January 31, 2011, please visit:  
<http://www.afcent.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120205-001.pdf>

- 30 -

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